
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE IN MAY 1997

Natural soda ash production in May was 937,000 metric tons, 12% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were estimated at 282,000 tons, a 12% increase from that of the preceding month. Wyoming trona production in May was 1,550,000 tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda as soda ash equivalent, based on data from all three producers, was 13,900 tons in May.

Apparent consumption of soda ash for April was 545,000 tons, 2% lower than the April 1996 level of 557,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in April 1997 were 342,000 tons and 8,500 tons, respectively.

The cumulative soda ash statistics through April 1997,

compared with those of the corresponding period in 1996, were as follows: production 5% higher, imports 6% higher, exports 6% higher, ending stocks 17% higher, and apparent consumption 1% higher.

Abstracts from the 1st International Soda Ash Conference that was held in Rock Springs, WY, on June 10-12, 1997, are available on the soda ash home page on the U.S. Geological Survey's website.

The site is:

http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/soda_ash

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH AND NATURAL SODIUM SULFATE STATISTICS 1/

Period	Soda ash (Thousand metric tons)		Natural sodium sulfate (Metric tons)	
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	Production	Ending stocks
1996:				
April	855	215	24,200	23,400
May	876	260	15,500	11,300
June	885	284	26,400	14,700
July	850	296	21,500	12,300
August	847	264	24,100	15,700
September	857	223	26,000	16,400
October	909	290 3/	26,400	18,500
November	859	285	24,100	14,300
December	866	271	29,500	19,500
Total (Jan-May)	4,100	XX	128,000	XX
Total	10,200	XX	306,000	XX
1997:				
January	866	326 e/	24,800	15,700
February	766	275 e/	23,800	19,500
March	912	296 e/	27,400	22,100
April	834	251 e/	27,500	15,900
May	937	282 e/	27,500	17,800
Total	4,320	XX	131,000	XX

e/ Estimated. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 1997 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

3/ Because of previously unreported inventory in remote locations by one producer, ending stocks are somewhat higher than the level of prior months.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Disodium carbonate		Disodium sulfate				Total	
	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Saltcake		Other		Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)
			Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)	Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)		
1996:								
April	349	\$45,300	8,260	\$646	31	\$16	8,290	\$662
May	217	29,000	104	17	63	38	167	55
June	337	43,800	13,300	1,290	43	17	13,400	1,310
July	315	42,000	12,500	695	29	20	12,600	715
August	392	51,100	2,440	189	6,620	956	9,060	1,150
September	329	44,400	1,690	151	23	8	1,710	159
October	392	53,600	2,060	210	119	679	2,180	889
November	255	34,800	1,190	140	108	545	1,300	685
December	367	47,700	14,300	1,250	103	36	14,400	1,290
Total (Jan.-Apr.)	1,230	162,000	28,300	2,180	2,700	723	31,000	2,900
Total	3,840	508,000	75,900	6,120	9,810	3,020	85,700	9,140
1997: 3/								
January	262	33,300	3,160	310	2,390	661	5,550	971
February	319	43,600	3,610	380	317	115	3,920	495
March	376	49,100	11,400	648	977	230	12,400	878
April	342	44,700	1,990	211	519	188	2,510	399
Total	1,300	171,000	20,200	1,550	4,200	1,190	24,400	2,740

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

3/ May 1997 data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census, as adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey, using Journal of Commerce trade data and information.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	Total Quantity	% of total
Argentina	6,150	12,100	10,100	--	28,400	2
Australia	--	--	--	5,020	5,020	--
Belgium	6,000	8,270	--	--	14,300	1
Bolivia	--	--	--	900	900	--
Brazil	17	21,100	38,100	17	59,100	5
Canada	26,200	28,500	22,500	21,500	98,700	8
Chile	--	20,000	--	21,800	41,800	3
China	--	9,010	27,500	5,000	41,500	3
Colombia	9,380	--	10,900	--	20,300	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	4,070	4,070	--
Croatia	12,000	--	--	11,000	23,000	2
Dominican Republic	--	--	1,770	--	1,770	--
Ecuador	--	--	4,480	--	4,480	--
France	10,000	--	22,200	--	32,200	2
Guatemala	41	2,120	--	3,010	5,170	--
Indonesia	19,100	23,500	29,400	47,900	120,000	9
Ireland	589	--	--	--	589	--
Israel	6,980	--	--	14,000	21,000	2
Jamaica	1,540	--	--	--	1,540	--
Japan	20,100	40,500	34,500	55,300	150,000	12
Korea, Republic of	26,500	29,900	37,500	31,700	126,000	10
Malaysia	8,100	10,300	--	14,500	33,000	3
Mexico	29,300	32,500	43,100	24,800	130,000	10
New Zealand	60	6,790	477	106	7,430	1
Panama	--	9	--	--	9	--
Peru	--	3,900	--	5,300	9,200	1
Philippines	7,150	15,200	12,500	--	34,900	3
Russia	--	--	477	--	477	--
Saudi Arabia	8,000	--	14,900	1,000	23,900	2
South Africa	--	--	--	25,100	25,100	2
Spain	9,600	--	12,900	--	22,500	2
Switzerland	--	--	21	--	21	--
Taiwan	25,300	15,000	20,900	14,900	76,000	6
Thailand	23,400	24,500	25,500	--	73,300	6
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	2,730	--	2,730	--
Turkey	5,030	--	--	--	5,030	--
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	5,000	5,000	--
United Kingdom	--	--	--	15,300	15,300	1
Venezuela	1,990	16,100	2,980	15,200	36,200	3
Total	262,000	319,000	376,000	342,000	1,300,000	100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Disodium carbonate		Disodium sulfate				Total	
	Value 3/		Saltcake 2/		Other		Value 3/	
	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)
1996:								
April	8,510	\$1,200	11,200	\$993	1,950	\$186	13,100	\$1,180
May	8,440	1,130	13,700	1,330	1,690	184	15,400	1,510
June	8,770	1,200	14,400	1,400	2,250	342	16,600	1,750
July	8,630	1,180	9,940	987	3,800	405	13,700	1,390
August	8,310	1,140	11,700	1,110	2,940	270	14,600	1,380
September	10,500	1,440	14,400	1,400	1,550	193	15,900	1,590
October	9,340	1,260	12,200	1,200	1,300	163	13,500	1,360
November	10,000	1,380	11,600	1,120	1,460	173	13,000	1,300
December	9,450	1,290	12,800	1,320	2,270	292	15,100	1,610
Total (Jan.-Apr.)	33,500	4,720	46,900	4,220	12,200	961	59,100	5,190
Total	107,000	14,700	148,000	14,100	29,400	2,980	177,000	17,100
1997: 4/								
January	8,930	1,180	10,700	1,060	2,620	294	13,300	1,350
February	9,280	1,330	14,200	1,400	2,050	266	16,300	1,660
March	8,760	1,240	12,400	1,250	1,170	222	13,600	1,470
April	8,500	1,160	10,700	1,040	786	121	11,500	1,160
Total	35,500	4,920	48,100	4,740	6,630	903	54,700	5,640

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes Glauber's salt.

3/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

4/ May 1997 data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U. S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	or Decrease	
1996:						
April	855,000	8,510	349,000	--	42,000	557,000
May	876,000	8,440	217,000	45,000	--	622,000
June	885,000	8,770	337,000	24,000	--	532,000
July	850,000	8,630	315,000	12,000	--	531,000
August	847,000	8,310	392,000	--	32,000	495,000
September	857,000	10,500	329,000	--	41,000	580,000
October	909,000	9,340	392,000	67,000	--	460,000
November	859,000	10,000	255,000	--	5,000	619,000
December	866,000	9,450	367,000	--	14,000	522,000
Total (Jan.-Apr.)	3,220,000	33,500	1,230,000	--	91,000	2,110,000
Total	10,200,000	107,000	3,840,000	--	35,000	6,470,000
1997:						
January	866,000	8,930	262,000	55,000 e/	--	557,000
February	766,000	9,280	319,000	--	51,000 e/	507,000
March	912,000	8,760	376,000	21,000 e/	--	524,000
April	834,000	8,500	342,000	--	45,000 e/	545,000
May	937,000	NA	NA	31,000 e/	--	NA
Total (Jan.-Apr.)	3,380,000	35,500	1,300,000	--	20,000 e/	2,130,000

e/ Estimated. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.